

**Administrative Determination (AD)**  
**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management  
Anchorage Field Office

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**A. BLM Office:** Anchorage Field Office    **Lease/Serial Case File No.:**A-028083

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Drilling of a natural gas well.

**Location of Proposed Action:** Section 34, T. 7 N., R. 10 W., Seward Meridian

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Marathon Oil Company is seeking approval of their Application for Permit to Drill (APD) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), allowing them to drill Beaver Creek #13 (BC-13) in the Beaver Creek Field on the Kenai Peninsula. Drilling the new well will promote natural gas development in the Kenai Peninsula. The actual well will be drilled on a preexisting pad (BC-3) within the Beaver Creek Unit, Section 34, T. 7 N., R. 10 W., of the Seward Meridian, with a well surface location being 1309.9' FNL, 2679.8' FWL. Surface management of the BC-3 Pad is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS), while subsurface management is relegated to the BLM.

Existing roads will be used to access BC-13. No new roads will be constructed to access the new well (BC-13) being drilled on Pad BC-3. Existing production facilities will be upgraded to handle additional gas production. A T-Pak™ gas/liquid separator will be installed on the new wellhead. This apparatus will be used in the production of natural gas from the proposed location. Once extracted and isolated, the gas will be sent to the existing infrastructure for storage or resale. Water used during the drilling will be drawn from a preexisting water supply well on the BC-3 pad. No new construction is planned on the pad. Sand and gravel for minor leveling (if required) will be obtained from the approved gravel pit in the SW¼, NE¼, Section 5, T. 6 N., R. 10 W., Seward Meridian. Other materials will be obtained from various local vendors and suppliers.

Cuttings and excess mud will be dewatered on-site and hauled to Pad 41-18 of the Kenai Gas Field for disposal into Well KU-24-7, a Class II disposal well (AOGCC Disposal Injection Order No. 9, Permit #81-176). All household and approved industrial garbage will be hauled to the Kenai Peninsula Borough – Soldotna Landfill. Clear fluids will be injected into approved disposal well Beaver Creek #2 (AOGCC Disposal Injection Order No. 4) or hauled to Pad 34-31 of the Kenai Gas Field and injected into an AOGCC approved disposal well (Well WD #1) under permit #7-194. Unused chemicals will be

returned to the vendors that provided them. Efforts will be made to minimize overall chemical use. Sewage will be hauled to the Kenai Sanitation facility.

A minimal camp (approximately four trailer house structures) will be established on the pad to house various supervisory and service company personnel. Bottled water will be used for human consumption, while other potable water will be obtained from the existing water well on the pad. Sanitary wastes will be collected and transported to their ADEC approved disposal facility.

Surface reclamation will take place upon the abandonment of BC-13 and other existing wells on the BC-3 Pad. Marathon Oil Company will receive approval from USF&WS prior to beginning any reclamation work on the BC-3 Pad.

**Applicant (if any):** Marathon Oil Company

**B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans:**

The BLM has not developed a land use plan for surface or subsurface oil and gas development in the Kenai Peninsula area. The USF&WS has identified and described oil and gas development in this area in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (1985).

The Proposed Action is nearly identical to the Proposed Action described in EA No. AK-040-98-011. This EA addressed the impacts of drilling the BC-10 well. The FONSI/Decision Record was signed on March 20, 1998. The BC-10 was nearly identical to this proposal. It was drilled about 65 feet north and east of the proposed location for this well. The impacts are assumed to be identical. Therefore, EA-040-98-011 provides a basis for a decision on the proposal in accordance with federal regulations (Title 43 CFR Part 1610.8(b)(1)).

**C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.**

Environmental Assessment AK-040-98-011, February, 1998; Application for Permit to Drill, Marathon Oil Company, Beaver Creek Unit (BC-13), 8/14/03.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

- 1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

The Proposed Action is essentially the same action (drilling a natural gas well within the Beaver Creek Unit) as outlined within EA-AK-040-98-011. The

location of the current Proposed Action is in the same Township, Range and Section as outlined in the aforementioned EA.

2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

The alternatives analyzed in the referenced EA were; allow the drilling and deny the drilling. Even though the EA was signed five years ago, the environmental issues and concerns have not changed.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

The following Critical Elements have been analyzed and will not be affected:

- Air Quality
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Environmental Justice
- Farm Lands (Prime or Unique)
- Floodplains
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Wastes (Hazardous or Solid)
- Water Quality (Drinking or Ground)
- Wetlands/Riparian Zones
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness

Cultural Resources; Invasive, Non-Native Species; T&E Species; and Subsistence have all been analyzed and will not be affected. Compliance and Determination reports have been prepared for these resources and are filed with AK-040-03-AD/DNA-030.

4. **Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?**

Yes

5. **Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?**

The direct and indirect impacts identified in the referenced EA are the same as would be anticipated for the Proposed Action. The setting, effected resources, and location are so similar, that the existing EA provides a reasonable basis for making a decision on the Proposed Action.

6. **Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

Yes, they are identical.

7. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?**

The existing EA was written in consultation with the USF&WS, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and State of Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The current proposal has also been posted for 30 days with no comments received.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:**

See the NEPA routing sheet and specialists' worksheets. A copy of the proposal was also provided to the USF&WS. Their representative, Claire Caldes, provided written comments and expressed their desire to have the project approved as proposed.

**F. Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Clinton E. Hanson, Acting  
Anchorage Field Manager

09-03-03  
Date